



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Duluth-based business pleads guilty to embezzlement

A Duluth-based business that assists corporations with their sales and marketing techniques pleaded guilty today in federal court on embezzlement and theft charges.

Fifty Below Sales & Marketing, Inc., pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement and theft from an employee benefit plan April 29 before United States District Court Judge David Doty in Minneapolis. The business was charged April 11.

According to the plea agreement, the business unlawfully and willfully abstracted and converted to its own use monies, funds, property and other assets, in the amount of approximately \$45,098.54 from its 401(k) savings plan from December 2004 through May 2005. The savings plan is an employee benefit plan.

The business faces a potential maximum penalty of five years probation and a \$500,000 fine. Judge Doty will determine a sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicole A. Engisch.